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William A. Ward



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Turkey Day at the ISA!



PTO President Vivian Teunissen far right, and holiday chefs



PTO moms make an assembly line



See story on page 4



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Presidential pardon

Photo shows President Barack Obama smiling at his daughters Malia (L) and Sasha during the annual pardon of the Apple, Thanksgiving Turkey, yesterday in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, DC.

Usually the biggest decision for the president during Thanksgiving week is whether or not to pardon the turkey at the annual White House ceremony.

(AFP PHOTO)



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MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

North Korea becomes UN's 'problem from hell'

Destroyed houses are seen on Yeonpyeong island in the disputed waters of the Yellow Sea after North Korea fired dozens of artillery shells two days before.

The UN Security Council is agonizing over how to answer North Korea's artillery attack on the rival South but has not even planned a meeting on the deadly assault.

(AFP PHOTO)



World Bank gives Haiti 10 mln dollar emergency aid

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AFP) - The World Bank announced today an emergency grant of 10 million dollars for Haiti's efforts to fight a spreading cholera epidemic that has already killed more than 1,400 people.

The grant, aimed at expanding Haiti's capacity to monitor and prevent such outbreaks, will be formally submitted for approval in December, but up to 40 percent of it can be used now to reimburse expenditures already incurred, the bank said.

The World Bank is funding non-governmental organizations operating in Haiti that are already providing urgent cholera treatment as well as preventive care to vulnerable Haitians.

"By boosting the efforts of NGOs already operating on the ground, our response becomes

much more effective and rapid than if we did it on our own," project leader Maryanne Sharp said in a statement from Port-au-Prince.

Up to eight million dollars of the funding is to go toward boosting the capacity of the non-profit groups, Sharp said. The Pan-American Health Organization recently warned there could be up to 400,000 cases over the next year, with as many as 10,000 deaths, if the outbreak is not contained.

Haitian health authorities say the epidemic has killed at least 1,415 people, with 25,000 requiring hospital treatment.

Last week the United Nations expressed disappointment with the international response to the organization's appeal to collect 164 million dollars to help combat the epidemic in Haiti, which is still

reeling from a catastrophic January earthquake that killed 250,000 people.

UN Humanitarian Coordinator Nigel Fisher said on Saturday that contributions up to that point had stood at less than 10 percent of what was needed.

Rio slum crackdown leaves 21 dead

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AFP) - At least 21 people have been killed and 153 arrested in four days of clashes as Brazilian security forces crack down on drug gangs in Rio's violent slums, police said yesterday.

The escalating violence casts more doubt on the ability of Rio authorities to get a grip on security ahead of its hosting of two of the planet's largest sporting events, the World Cup in 2014 and the Olympics two years later.

Thirteen suspected drug traffickers were killed yesterday alone and two police were wounded, while 25 people were arrested, colonel Lima Castro, from the military police, told journalists.

"We'll continue our operations tomorrow. We'll patrol and carry out checks. They'll

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States is concerned about a coming dump of classified documents by WikiLeaks, expected to be diplomatic cables, State Department spokesman Philip Crowley said yesterday.

"We are in touch with our posts around the world. They have begun the process of informing governments that a release of documents is possible in the near future," Crowley said. "This is going to be unhelpful."

Crowley said that WikiLeaks release of classified documents, is "harmful to our national security. It does put lives at risk. It does put national interests at risk."

He said that diplomatic cables, messages between US posts around the world, "involve discussions that we had with government officials,

with private citizens."

"Inherent in this day-to-day action is trust that we can convey our perspectives to other governments in confidence," he said. Breaking that confidence "has a impact."

"These revelations ... are going to create tensions on our relationships between our diplomats and our friends around the world," he said.

WikiLeaks has not said what will be contained in its coming release, indicating only that it will be "seven times" the Iraq War logs in which it posted 400,000 secret documents.

A new posting would mark WikiLeaks' third mass release of classified documents after it published 77,000 secret US files on the Afghan conflict in July.

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Manager

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Rosalie Klein
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AFP-Agence France Presse

Caya G. F. Betico Croes 111
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Flaw in a high voltage cable next to the Airport causes outages in the area

Dutch technician will come to Aruba to help with the repair job



ORANJESTAD – Technicians of Aruba's electric supply company, ELMAR N.V., discovered a flaw in the high voltage cable that supplies electricity from our water and Energy Plant, WEB Aruba N.V. to the Palm Beach substation. The cable is about 30 years old and still runs on the old system, technologically called "Oil filled cable." ELMAR's technicians discovered an acute leak at the Airport crossing.

According to investigations, the cable which transports 60 KV electricity from WEB to the Palm Beach Substation, has a leak in the sleeve. ELMAR's technician decided to cut part of the cable and flush that specific part to get rid of dirt which might have gotten into the cable. In the following days the technicians will determine how to repair the damage; a repair job that will certainly last for two weeks.

For this repair job ELMAR decided to seek the help of experts specialized in this kind of technology to assist the local technicians. They are Dutch technicians specialized in works on "oil filled cables" and will help with the replacement of the cable.

This type of cable was recently preplaced by ELMAR at the substation in Paardenbaaistraat. Nowadays the company uses a more modern technology that requires less maintenance and material is easier to obtain when repairing the cable. ELMAR's personnel also recently followed an advanced course on how to deal with problems in the new system. The company is planning to replace this specific oil filled cable in 2012. It is a 15 km cable that supplies electricity to the Palm Beach sub station.

This replacement is part of the program ELMAR has, to improve the electricity distribution on its network system, which is an investment of millions of Aruban florins.

ELMAR kindly ask all motorists to drive with caution in the airport area, there will be workers alongside the road. ELMAR hopes that there will be no outages during the replacement of the cable. There is also the chance to bypass the flaw; a three meter long cable will be installed in that specific area.

Photo shows the condition of the cable that caused the outage in the airport area. ELMAR N.V. apologizes for this inconvenience.

Commission gives Minister Dr. Richard Visser final report A Public Health Inspection will be introduced next year

To control care and service quality rendered to patients



ORANJESTAD – Recently Minister of Public Health and Sports, Dr. Richard Visser received the final report related to the introduction of a new management for the Department of Public Health, namely the Public Health Inspection. The entity will function separately from the Department of Public Health. Up to now we do not know this kind of department, we only know the Medicine Inspection Department which controls all medicines imported to our island. Now the Aruba government is introducing the same kind of control department but for healthcare in general.

The new department is necessary in order to assure the community on a transparent inspection on services given related to health. The community can file a complaint against the hospital, the house doctor, a specialist or any other office or organization which gives medical care. In other words, the department will inspect the quality of the whole health care system in primary as well as in the secondary care.

Primary care is the term for the health services which play a central role in the local community. It refers to the work of health care professionals who act as a first point of consultation for all patients. Such a professional would usually be a general practitioner or family physician, depending on locality. However, at the patient's discretion and according to their self-assessment of the seriousness of their ailment, they

may opt to see another health care professional first, such as a pharmacist, or in some localities, a nurse.

Secondary care is the service provided by medical specialists who generally do not have first contact with patients, for example, cardiologists, urologists and dermatologists.

On April 7, Minister Visser instituted the commission with the task to advise the government how to create an inspection department that is separated and works independently from the Department of Public Health.

According to Minister Visser, the Government has the task to protect our health care system.

"For me it is important that the quality of healthcare remain on a high level. We

must have a department that can evaluate our healthcare system and has the authority and power to act when this quality is not according to an acceptable level or norm."

The government intends to introduce the inspection department next year. At present Minister Visser is deliberating with Holland to form a new relationship with their inspection department, known as RIVM.

RIVM, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, is a recognized leading center of expertise in the fields of health, nutrition. The institution works mainly for the Dutch government.

It also share its knowledge with governments and supranational bodies around the world.

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Turkey Day at the ISA!



The student body and faculty of the International School of Aruba boasts a diversity of national and ethnic backgrounds, but they have all discovered you don't have to be from the U.S. to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving feast. An annual ritual begun more than five years ago, the mothers of the PTO shop, cook and serve a classic meal of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes with gravy and cranberry sauce for 200, as



the teachers, bus drivers and maintenance help of the school are treated to lunch before the long holiday weekend.

Yesterday, PTO President Vivian Teunissen led her 15 volunteers into the ISA kitchens armed with 14 turkeys they had prepared at home and pots full of everyone's favorite holiday dishes, including a spectacular cake

decorated with a picture of a typical Thanksgiving spread.

The younger classes enjoyed their very special lunch break at noon, followed by the junior and high school kids. There were lots of smiles all around for the tasty menu, and happy giggles from girls savoring sharing this special time with their favorite BFF's.

"We like to think of this as

more of an "Appreciation Day," explained PTO member Ann Derrickson. "We make the meal not only for the children, but also their teachers and all who work at the school, to express our appreciation for the terrific job they do all year round. It is fun for everyone, and the least we can do."

by Rosalie Klein

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Popular Pizza Bob's is perfect for casual dining



A popular hangout with Eagle Beach temporary residents

Everyone has those nights when they want an easy, casual meal, and among denizens of the Eagle Beach area, their favorite place for fun food and friendly surroundings is Pizza Bob's, right next to the Bucuti Beach resort parking lot.

Maitre D' Alex adores welcoming his abundant repeat clientele, being five minutes walk from most of Aruba's timeshares has made the place a prime eatery among families with healthy

appetites. Their pizza is modeled on the classic thin crust typical of Chicago's Southside, and the secret recipe of a famous pizzeria since 1957, which we dare not name as we might get whacked!

While checking out the locale, Alex introduced us to Sharla and Caroline from Sweden, frequent visitors to Aruba who can't imagine a vacation without several dinner stops at Pizza Bob's. This was the general consensus of all the guests who we spoke

with during our time there; all make it a multiple meal choice during their vacation. "I have one couple from Germany who eat here every night of their vacation," confessed Alex, "they are like family to us!"

Aside from the famous pizzas, the menu features very tasty barbecue, a personal favorite of Caroline, lasagna, Fresh Vegetable Linguini and huge salads that can be shared by two, plus a personal favorite for dessert,



Swedish sisters Sharla and Caroline are huge fans of Pizza Bob's

"Death by Chocolate." They do sport an air-conditioned dining room, which is popular at lunch time to escape the tropical mid-day sun, but nighttime is the right time to enjoy their outdoor terrace and great music from noted island singer Tommy every Wednesday and Saturday night, which converts the eatery into a congenial hang-out until closing time.

If you love your pizza and

island ambiance, Pizza Bob's is the perfect place for a fun night. Open for lunch and dinner every day from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., and they deliver to all the resorts in the Eagle Beach area. Call 588 9040 ext. 790 for delivery or to pre-order. They also feature a daily happy hour from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. when you can enjoy a large size pizza for the price of a medium and drinks are 2-for-1; what a deal!

Sci-Tech

NASA says Earth's lakes are warming

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Earth's largest lakes have warmed up over the past 25 years in response to climate change, the US space agency said Tuesday, announcing the first such global study of its kind.

Scientists Philipp Schneider and Simon Hook of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California used satellite data to measure the surface temperature of 167 lakes around the world, NASA said.

"They reported an average warming rate of 0.81 degrees Fahrenheit per decade, with some lakes warming as much as 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit per decade," NASA said in a statement.

"The results were consistent with the expected changes associated with global warming," it said.

Researchers found the "largest and most consistent area of warming was northern Europe," while the "warming trend was slightly weaker in southeastern Europe, around the Black and Caspian seas and Kazakhstan," NASA said.

"The trends increased slightly farther east in Siberia, Mongolia and northern China."

The southwestern United States experienced "slightly higher" trends than the Great Lakes region, while the tropics and mid-latitudes of the Southern Hemisphere showed "weaker" warming,

NASA said.

"Our analysis provides a new, independent data source for assessing the impact of climate change over land around the world," said Schneider, lead author of the study published this week in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*.

"The results have implications for lake ecosystems, which can be adversely affected by even small water temperature changes."

NASA selected bodies of water that were at least 193 square miles (500 square kilometers) or larger, and had significant amounts of water away from the shoreline so that land temperature changes did not interfere with measurements.

Oprah's 'Favorite Things' include iPad, Sony 3DTV, Netflix



Apparently, the number-one tech item on children's wish lists this year is the Apple iPad. Too bad they weren't in the audience for Oprah's "favorite things" 2010 show.

The talk show host this week gave iPads to her entire audience as part of the highly anticipated show, and declared the tablet to be "the best invention of the century so far."

For years, Oprah has gathered some of her favorite items - many of which are

quite luxurious and pricey - and given them away to audience members, prompting hysterical reactions. This year, in honor of her 25th and final season, Oprah hosted two "favorite things" episodes, and on Monday's show, she gave away the iPad, a \$4.99 Scrabble app, and announced an enhanced "O" magazine iPad app.

"Words cannot describe what I feel for this magnificent device," Oprah said. "Thanks to my iPad, I now

read about four newspapers a day. I write my column for 'O' magazine on the iPad way before the deadline because I love writing on it so much."

The second audience also received the Volkswagen 2012 Beetle.

Last week, audience members in the first "favorite things" episode received a five-year Netflix subscription, a \$3,600 Sony BRAVIA LX900 HDTV with 3D, and the \$700 Nikon D3100 Digital SLR Camera, among other things.

In June, Oprah gave iPads and \$10,000 to every staff member at "O" magazine.

Flexible screens on the way for E-readers

Flexible screens as thin as a piece of paper may be available for e-readers by early next year thanks to a project from Taiwan's Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) and licensee AU Optronics, one of the world's largest LCD screen makers.

ITRI developed a manufacturing process for the thin displays and AU is in the process of converting an old factory to mass produce them, according to John Chen, general director of the Display Technology Center at ITRI.

AU Optronics confirmed the joint research project with ITRI but declined further comment.

The partnership could lead to thin, flexible displays that could be added to mo-



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Shark 'skin-teeth' aid fast turns: study



WASHINGTON (AFP) - As if the sight of an angry shark with a mouthful of razor sharp fangs wasn't enough to inspire fear, US researchers have found teeth-like scales on their skin that may help them make quick underwater turns.

These flexible scales "make them better hunters by allowing them to change directions while moving at full speed," said the findings by researchers at the University of South Florida and the University of Alabama.

The scales control how water flows across the shark's body, said Alabama researcher Amy Lang, who pre-

sented her team's findings at the American Physical Society's Division of Fluid Dynamics annual meeting in Long Beach, California.

"In nature, if you look at surfaces of animals, you'll see that they are not smooth," she said.

"They have patterns. Why? One common application of patterning a surface is to control flow -- think of the dimples of a golf ball that help the ball fly farther," she added.

"We believe scales on fast-swimming sharks serve a similar purpose of flow separation control."

Their skills might be useful for human technology, particularly in the form of aerodynamics and travel.

"As we investigate further, we imagine applications of controlling flow separation in design of aircraft, helicopters, wind turbines -- anywhere flow separation is an issue," Lang said.

Beatles sell two million songs in a week on iTunes

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - The Beatles sold more than 450,000 albums and over two million individual songs in the week since their music appeared on Apple's iTunes, Billboard said Tuesday.

Billboard said the best-selling album in the United States was "Abbey Road" and the best-selling song was "Here Comes the Sun."

"Here Comes the Sun" was number 54 on the iTunes list of the top 100 best-selling singles on Tuesday followed by "Let It Be" at number 60, "In My

Life" at number 74, "Come Together" at number 90 and "Blackbird" at number 97.

"Abbey Road" was number 17 on the list of the top 50 best-selling albums on iTunes followed by the "White Album" at number 25 and "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" at number 27.

"The Beatles 1967-1970" was number 30 followed by "The Beatles 1962-1966" at number 40, the 149-dollar complete "Beatles Box Set" at number 42 and "Rubber Soul" at number 43.

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Health & Living

US doctors say chemicals can cause cancer

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Dr Linda Giudice has treated thousands of patients over the years with a range of troubling reproductive disorders, and recently, she joined health experts and a young mother in fingering chemicals as the probable cause.

"I have treated thousands of patients... including young men with very abnormal sperm counts or a history of testicular cancer, women as young as 17 and already in the menopause, little girls with the onset of puberty at six or eight," Giudice told a news conference.

"There is increasing evidence that environmental contaminants may be playing a role in these disorders," said Giudice, who chairs the department of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences at the University of California, San Francisco.

Molly Gray, a young mother who was found to have high levels of toxic chemicals in her blood during her pregnancy, suspects chemicals were the culprit.

She recalled how, after several miscarriages, she radically



changed her lifestyle and ate only organically grown food, avoided fish high in mercury, shunned plastic food storage containers, and switched to "green" cleaning products.

But in spite of the changes, tests on Gray during her pregnancy showed she had high levels of 13 toxic chemicals in her blood.

"These chemicals have become ubiquitous in the environment and, as clean as I tried to be, it was not enough to protect my baby boy," she said.

"I was disheartened. I felt helpless," she said.

Gray and Giudice this week joined Tracey Woodruff, director of UCSF's program

on reproductive health and the environment, and Andy Igrejas, campaign director for the Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families advocacy group, in calling for the 1976 law that regulates chemicals in the United States to be overhauled.

According to Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families, the 34-year-old Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) has failed to regulate chemicals in consumer products, including chemicals with proven links to cancer, learning disabilities, asthma, reproductive disorders and other health problems.

The law has not evolved with chemical exposure,

which since World War II has increased more than twenty-fold, said Giudice.

"Today there is ubiquitous exposure to environmental contaminants through air, water, food, drink, cosmetics, personal care products, pesticides, herbicides and everyday household items," she said.

Even the flame retardants used in furniture contain potentially harmful chemicals, said Woodruff.

"We have begun to question whether exposure to these are affecting our reproductive health," she said.

A massive study released in August that showed US girls are starting puberty earlier than they were just 10 years ago singled out endocrine disruptor chemicals as one of the likely culprits of early onset puberty, said Woodruff.

An overwhelming majority of the girls in the study who developed breasts and started their menstrual cycles as young as age seven had high levels of flame retardant and other chemicals in their bodies.

Some of the chemicals were banned decades ago but

"remain in the food chain," said Woodruff. Others are commonly found in household cleaners and other items that people come into contact with every day.

Other studies have linked exposure to chemicals with illnesses ranging from asthma to cardiovascular disease and cancer.

A study published in September in the Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, a journal of the American Medical Association, found a link between chemicals used to make non-stick cookware and higher blood cholesterol levels in children.

And a group of experts said at a major science meeting held in February this year that they suspected a link between the rising incidence of breast cancer and exposure to chemicals.

Yet, in the 34 years since the TSCA was enacted, just five chemicals have been regulated under the law.

Bills to overhaul the TSCA were introduced in Congress this year but never taken up, said Igrejas.

Take time to get acquainted with

NICKY
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There is a particularly lovely beach on Aruba with a gorgeous vista right near the airport, known always as Surfside; for some time now the building adjacent to it has gone through a string of owners seeking an appropriate identity for this special place, and it looks like it has finally found it with the opening of the Nikky Beach Club Aruba.

Our investigative team from THE MORNING NEWS went down to have a look at this latest venture, and we found just the kind of authentically tranquil, Caribbean ambiance vacationers seek when visiting Aruba. New owner Hans and his GM Lub have completely renovated and redesigned the venue to fully showcase this charming location while providing a very reasonably priced menu and bar.

November is the month to get acquainted with Nikky Beach as they are offering an introductory dinner special of only \$15 for a three-course meal or a different Entrée de Jour each day of the week for only \$10. This is available from 5:00 to 9:30 p.m., so you can finish up an afternoon spent on the beach, catch a meal after a dive with the adjacent SCUBA shop, or savor your supper along with one of the most spectacular locations to watch our amazing Aruban sunsets.

Jan and Lub have dubbed Sunday's at Nikky Beach "Rehab Day," when they provide a particularly pleasant ambiance with popular local and international DJ's from noon on and \$3 Mimosas all day long. During the traditional Happy Hour time slot, they feature live music with top local groups specializing in the soft sound of the islands.

Some extremely interesting items on the menu captured our interest along with very moderate prices; aside from the November special you can expect an a la carte tab that will add to your enjoyment. Their chef offers an extensive fusion selection that reveals expertise in several notable cuisines; a nice variety that will please everyone's mood. For lunch and snacking you find a varied choice of classic salads, favorite local treats, pastas and gourmet sandwiches. Kitchen is open from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

One last interesting tidbit: Lub explained they offer a customized Departure Day Package that allows vacationer to stow their luggage, enjoy all their amenities, choose a meal, drinks or both and they will personally guarantee getting you to the airport in plenty of time for the flight. Changing rooms and showers let you swim and beach it until departure time and you can linger without rushing, as the airport is only 2 minutes away; no worries about fighting traffic or delays. "Why should you end your stay on a hurried and harried note?" asks Lub. "You can join us for the day and keep that relaxed island ambiance up to the last minute; it doesn't have to end at check out." The package requires reservations, which can be made by calling 582-0153 or contact them through their website: www.nickybeacharuba.com.

by Rosalie Klein

Jan and Lub have dubbed Sunday's at Nikky Beach "Rehab Day," when they provide a particularly pleasant ambiance with popular local and international DJ's from noon on and \$3 Mimosas all day long. During the traditional Happy Hour time slot, they feature live music with top local groups specializing in the soft sound of the islands.



Diana Villamarin and Carl Solazzo are wed



Diana and Carl enjoyed a lovely destination wedding in Aruba, at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa surrounded by their adoring family members and friends.

The weekend of festivities took off on Saturday with a BBQ Rehearsal Dinner in the 9th floor penthouse suite of the resort.

On Sunday, the love-birds exchanged wedding vows on the beach at sunset, against the backdrop of gorgeous weather, to the beautiful prose of local officiant Ruben Trappenberg. One-hundred and thirty-two wedding guests congratulated the new Mr. & Mrs. Solazzo at an elegant cocktail reception to Tico Kock's steel band music.

The evening continued with a gourmet banquet and dancing, at the resort's Grand Caribbean Ballroom where dinner was served over bottomless cocktails to live DJ mixing with Tino Daal.



For Jennifer and Danny Honan, a renewal of vows is a family affair



"Ten years of being truly happily married seems to be an accomplishment these days," explained Danny Honan as to why he and wife Jennifer decided to stage a renewal of vows while on Aruba for Thanksgiving. "Jennifer and I are still truly in love and being able to do this with our daughters Kayla and Makenzie to see it, makes it absolutely perfect."

The Linden, New Jersey couple are big fans of Aruba, as are Jennifer's parents, Ted and Joann Chesney, who own timesharing at the Aruba Beach Club and introduced the "bride and groom" to the island before they had married. Jennifer and Danny returned when she was pregnant with Kayla, and are back again to share this special moment with several aunts, uncles and cousins who all spend Thanksgiving on Aruba every year at

the ABC.

Diane Keijzer performed the ceremony; tears of joy and gratitude were streaming down Danny's cheeks throughout. "When I saw all my girls looking so beautiful in white, well, that was it for me, I lost it completely," he confessed when the ceremony was over. He was so overcome with emotion that after Jennifer had recited her vows of love and appreciation for ten wonderful years together, he could do little more than choke out the word "Ditto."

Diane ended the poignant ceremony with a few charming island rituals. Seashells were distributed to all the guests and the wedding party for them to toss into the sea in a prayer to the powers that be for marital harmony; she then presented Jennifer and Danny with a small woven bag containing a

few shells from the beach were they were wed and an Aruban square .50 cent piece. "Add to this the cork from the bottle of champagne you open to toast your marriage," she advised them, "and keep it in your favorite room in the house to bless your union. I have been married 36 years and I still have mine."

The signing of the marriage certificate was also a family affair, as Kayla, 8, and Makenzie, 4, were the official witnesses to this happy event. This is the first Thanksgiving the Honans are sharing on Aruba with the rest of their family, who come each year for the holiday, and now they claim particularly special feeling for the island. "Despite the clouds and the brief shower that delayed the ceremony, it could not have been more perfect."

by Rosalie Klein

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Baby boy for John Travolta

LOS ANGELES, California – Actor John Travolta and his wife Kelly Preston on Tuesday announced the birth of their third child, a baby boy born nearly two years after the death of their 16-year-old son Jett.

The baby, named Benjamin, was born at a hospital in Florida on Tuesday evening weighing more than 8 lbs (3.6 kg), according to a statement from Travolta's publicist.

"John, Kelly and their daughter Ella Bleu are ecstatic and very happy about the newest member of the family. Both mother and baby are healthy and doing beautifully."

Jett, the first child of Travolta, 56, and Preston, 48, died of a seizure in January 2009 while the family was on vacation in the Bahamas. Travolta confirmed after the death that Jett was autistic.

COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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ACROSS

1. Arduous
5. Seize
9. Buddhist monk
13. Pass over
17. Woodwind instrument
18. Banister
19. So be it!
20. Lamentable
21. Buffet
22. Heavy quilt
24. Ohio Indian
25. Directed
27. Sailors' yeses
28. Preoccupy
30. Male child
31. Small songbird
32. Caustic solutions
33. Box
36. Hitches
37. Suitable to cook in water
41. Focal points
42. Glue together

DOWN

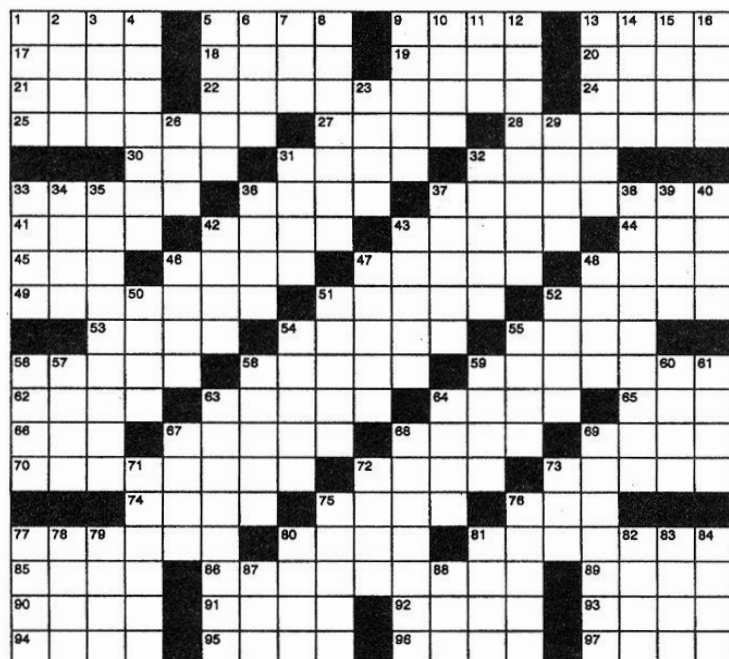
43. Lithograph
44. Longest geologic period
45. Conjunction
46. Golfer's cry
47. Throw
48. Manage
49. Gathering
51. Quahogs
52. Tortes
53. Jitneys
54. Edible seeds
55. Center
56. Opponents
58. Talons
59. Pounds
62. Thwart
63. Social rank
64. Finish line marker
65. Filled crust
66. Commotion
67. Got up
68. Branches
69. Optimum

DOWN

1. Jumps
2. Support in wrongdoing
3. Function
4. Hates
5. Inexperienced
6. Invasion

70. Turncoat
72. French streets
73. Drills
74. Weapons
75. Bag
76. Blemish
77. Writer Robert Penn
80. Half a quart
81. Racehorse enclosure
85. Three-sided blade
86. Duplicate
89. Constant
90. Troubles
91. Loosen
92. Eject
93. Impudent
94. Negative votes
95. Winter crystals
96. New Jersey team
97. Pintail duck

7. Help
8. Dimmed
9. Burdened
10. Biblical prophet
11. Gull sound
12. Bothersome
13. Ukraine seaport
14. Bog
15. Rainbow goddess
16. Golf mounds
23. Cereal grasses
26. Small deer
29. Region
31. Chardonnay, e.g.
32. Cuts of meat
33. Scorch
34. Ancient alphabet character
35. Carrying off
36. Divided
37. Hat parts
38. Apiary owner
39. Solitary
40. Goals
42. Sounds of disapproval
43. Maps
46. Small lies
47. Defects
48. Cultivate
50. Fasten
51. Discontinue
52. "See About Me"
54. Jaded
55. Covers
56. At a distance
57. Knob
58. Oafs
59. Showy actors
60. Ascend
61. Establishes
63. Crevices
64. Difficult trip
67. Fever with chills
68. Public sale
69. Perimeters
71. Exit
72. Harangue
73. Harmful
75. Tendon
76. Fountain drinks
77. Accustom to solid food
78. Capital of Western Samoa
79. Depend
80. Mexican money
81. Preceding
82. Egg
83. Surrender
84. Patella's joint
87. Football's Marino
88. Signal



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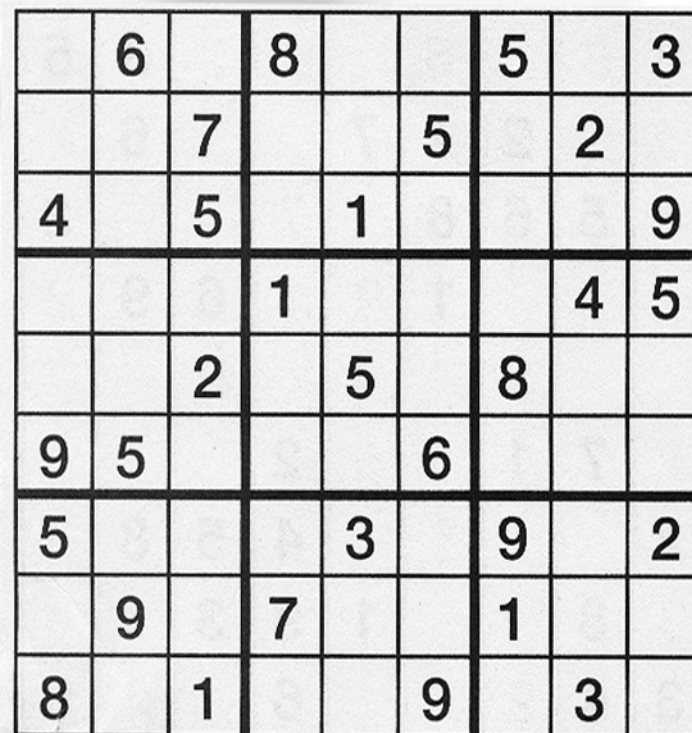
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| 7 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| 3 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 8 |
| 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 9 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 5 |
| 5 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 7 |
| 8 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 4 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 3 |

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance



SOCHI, Russian Federation -- A land-surveyor takes topographical measurements near the location of the 2014 Winter Olympics where a railway station is under construction at the Black Sea resort of Sochi. Sochi will host the 2014 Winter Olympics from February 7 until 23, 2014. (AFP PHOTO)



SARLAT-LA-CANÉDA, France -- A picture shows black truffles from France Perigord region, southwestern France, in sale at the first Sarlat's season market, targeting professionals. The price varied between 180 to 400 euros per kg, an average price was 230 euros. (AFP PHOTO)

GERMANY-- The swimming "Vineta" church is pulled by two boats towards its final landing place on the Stoermthaler See lake in Grosspörsna near Leipzig, eastern Germany. The church will be anchored at the place where used to stand the church of the dismantled Magdeborn village.

Residents of Magdeborn were relocated and their houses dismantled in the 70s as the region was exploited for lignite by open cast mining. The pit was flooded afterwards, what created the Stoermthaler See lake.

The "Vineta" church is aimed to become a touristic highlight.

(AFP PHOTO)



CBA: Still no clear signs of an economic recovery

Summary of the Bulletin for the second quarter of 2010

ORANJESTAD -- The CBA concludes in its latest Quarterly Bulletin that the available economic indicators do not show clear improving signs on the state of the Aruban economy. Business sentiment deteriorated slightly in the second quarter of 2010 compared to the previous quarter, although businesses were less pessimistic than in the second quarter of 2009. Performance indicators for the tourism sector show ambiguity. The number of stay-over visitors fell by 1.2 percent, mainly mirroring decreased arrivals from Latin America, particularly Venezuela. In contrast, the U.S. tourism market expanded for the fourth consecutive quarter, although a decline was recorded in the month of June. Despite the drop in the number of tourists, total nights spent on Aruba increased by 1.8 percent, thereby raising the average length of stay from 7.2 to 7.4 nights. Cruise tourism performed positively in the second quarter of 2010, registering a 5.5 percent growth in the number of cruise passengers. Tourism receipts, as recorded in the balance of payments, increased by 5.0 percent.

Construction activities remained depressed due to a

weak demand for domestic building and moderate public sector capital expenditures. Additionally, the outlook on short-term future economic conditions in the construction sector, as measured in the CBA's Business Perception Survey, dropped considerably, suggesting that a rebound in construction activity is not yet on the horizon.

Price developments resulted in a 3.8 percent inflation rate in the second quarter of 2010, compared to a year earlier, attributed largely to a strong growth in the category "housing" (including water and electricity). The 12-month average inflation rate was 1.7 percent.

Money supply declined by Afl. 3.9 million in the quarter under review. With respect to the banking sector's credit, it must be noted that the private sector's credit demand has remained low. Noticeably, commercial banks purchased a large amount of Aruban government bonds in the second quarter of 2010, reflecting the limited high-yielding investment possibilities both locally and internationally and the low demand for credit.

Excluding these purchases, total credit rose by 0.4 percent only. The ratio of nonperforming loans to gross loans increased again to 9.8 percent. However, the provisions against these nonperforming

loans are adequate.

The government's debt amounted to Afl. 2,328.4 million at the end of June 2010. Expressed as a percentage of GDP, this means an increase of 1.9 percentage points to 53.0 percent compared to the previous quarter, a development that is not sustainable in the long term. The government issued three bonds on the domestic capital market in the second quarter of 2010: an Afl. 23.5 million bond to cover the 2009 operating deficit of the AZV, and two bonds totaling Afl. 180.0 million to cover part of the government's financing needs for 2010.

The government's finances were positively influenced by an incidental large receipt of Afl. 211.6 million from the Valero oil refinery related to the settlement of the BBO dispute between the oil refinery and the government. An Afl. 42.3 million financial surplus on a cash basis was posted in the second quarter of 2010, compared to an Afl. 52.0 million deficit in the second quarter of 2009.

The balance of payments posted an Afl. 31.8 million surplus in the second quarter of 2010 (2009: Afl. 12.4 million deficit). Consequently, total net foreign assets (including revaluation differences of gold and official foreign exchange holdings) expanded by Afl. 57.7 million to Afl. 1,693.3 million at the end of June 2010. This amount is equivalent to 6.3 months of current account payments (excluding the oil sector).

Ireland unveils 15-bln-euro austerity plan to secure bailout

DUBLIN, Ireland (AFP) - Ireland unveiled a 15-billion-euro austerity package yesterday required to unlock an international bailout, slashing public sector pay and pensions but refusing to raise corporation tax.

With the eyes of Europe on his debt-ridden nation, Prime Minister Brian Cowen said his four-year package of cuts and tax increases would restore shattered confidence, calling it a signpost on the road to recovery.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|---------|------|
| ACTA | APR | EARP | SCOT |
| FLAW | ELEE | AREA | MOVE |
| AURA | SONG | RANT | OLAN |
| RESISTS | IAN | TRILL | |
| THESUMMER | SOLDIER | | |
| TASSEL | GEESSE | NEEDLE | |
| ALA | ALTA | STES | REST |
| RONA | ARNS | DAME | SEE |
| TOTS | IDEAL | FARM | |
| FAIRWEATHER | FRIEND | | |
| NOES | SANER | MARE | |
| LAM | INTO | APOD | OMAR |
| ATOM | EIRE | ANET | EPI |
| STRESS | SERAI | MAIDEN | |
| SUNSHINE | PATRIOTS | | |
| ISERE | ALT | STELLAR | |
| ETNA | EWES | ERSE | AIRE |
| YEGG | NEAT | SOUS | NAIL |
| EASE | SLUE | TEE | DRAY |

Linda's Pancakes and Pizza place, delicious meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner



Plain Pancake

Linda's Pancake and Pizza place, located at Palm Beach 6D, Noord (on the right side of Valero gas station) offers patrons the most delicious Dutch pancakes and pizza's with a Dutch twist.

Open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and only five minutes away from the high-rise resorts, Linda's is the perfect eatery for the whole family.

Seeing the popularity of this quaint small eatery, THE MORNING NEWS decided it

is just mmm... good. The saté... out of this world!"

Besides the original plain pancake, Linda's specialty is pancakes with walnuts, Brie and honey; pancakes with banana and mango or a Dutch favorite: pancake with apple and bacon.

All their pizzas are made with Dutch Gouda cheese and different toppings making it richer in taste.

When it comes to saté, one has to say that the secret is in



Olgita, Ilhan and Iyanla enjoying a scrumptious meal

was time to find out just how good Linda's really is, by sending out a team of taste testers.

Olgita, joined by her two kids ordered a little of everything while the kids roamed around freely, enjoying the afternoon.

The meal started out with Linda's original plain – to die for – Dutch pancakes, followed by pizza, where instead of using mozzarella Linda has created a unique twist to the traditional Italian dish by using Dutch Gouda cheese. Adding a local favorite which could not stay off the table they also sampled the delicious saté (chicken, pork or beef on a wooden skewer) with peanut sauce (Indonesian influence on local food). For the finish the team (adults only) had one cup of Linda's delicious Espresso.

The team had this to say: "Superb! There are no words to describe just how delicious the pancakes are and the pizza

the sauce. Not everybody can make that perfect peanut sauce, but Linda, being an expert in the kitchen has cooked up one of the finest peanut sauces on the island, making this original Indonesian dish extra special.

If you want a specially prepared pancake or pizza, Linda is right there -- just for you -- in her kitchen.

"For those who are allergic to gluten I have a special pancake mix, gluten free," Linda stated to THE MORNING NEWS team.

Linda's Pancakes and Pizza also offers fried eggs and homemade soups.

"We also serve American coffee," Linda concluded.

With a complete menu, filled with delicious pancakes, pizzas and more, Linda's pancake and Pizza place is the perfect casual restaurant for all in the family.

For more information contact Linda's at 586-3378.

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These fabulous loft apartments are more spacious, with the sleeping area upstairs on the loft. All apartments are completely furnished with cable TV. The open kitchen is very spacious and equipped with stove top, refrigerator, toaster/oven and coffee maker (microwave optional). The apartments are air-conditioned, with daily maid service, private parking and a mini market.

The laundry is accessible to all guests 24 hours a day. There is a large fresh water swimming pool, with a pool deck and beach chairs, where you can relax any time of the day. At the reception, the friendly staff is always ready to attend you with a smile.

Quality Apartments is situated at the Schotlandstraat 70 in Oranjestad. For reservations or information readers may call at tel: (297)-582-0697 or (297)-583-7484, Fax: (297)-583-5203. Office hours are Monday thru Friday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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US turkey; Thank vegans it's Thanksgiving



POOLESVILLE, Maryland (AFP) – Victor is a 45-pound (20 kilogram) turkey who would be welcome at many a table today when Americans celebrate Thanksgiving.

But when Victor graces a dinner table, he comes as guest of honor with his feathers puffed up rather than as the main course with his innards stuffed, which is the way some 46 million turkeys are expected to end up this Thanksgiving, according to the National Turkey Federation.

Victor will never be one of them.

He is one of a growing number of turkeys who are living out their days at animal sanctuaries after being rescued from slaughterhouses and cages around the United States.

Some are saved by the US president in a tradition -- pardoning the Thanksgiving Day turkey -- that dates back to John F. Kennedy in the 1960s.

The turkey who will be pardoned by President Barack Obama this year will live out his days at the Virginia estate of America's founding president, George Washington.

Victor owes a debt of gratitude not to the US president but to the growing number of vegetarians and vegans in the country.

Victor was found four years ago on Thanksgiving day, which falls on the fourth Thursday in November, walking down a road in the Washington suburb of Germantown.

He was just several months old -- turkeys who are destined

for the dinner table usually end up in a deep-freeze when they are about four months old.

Luckily for him, he was found by a couple of vegans, who took him to Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary in Maryland, where this year he celebrated his fourth birthday.

Last weekend, Victor joined the sanctuary's other turkeys, guinea fowl, Japanese silkies, bantam hens, peacocks, even pigs who might have ended up as honey roasted hams on Thanksgiving, for a dinner thrown for the animals by humans.

On the menu for the birds was corn, grapes, tofu, greens, apples. The pigs got pumpkins.

While Victor and his fellow fowl feasted on their food, some 800 humans sat at long tables under a warm autumn sun and dined on couscous, quinoa, beans, pumpkin soup, pasta and other vegan dishes they had brought along. Vegan food contains neither meat, dairy, eggs nor honey.

The first time Poplar Spring held its Thanksgiving dinner for the turkeys 12 years ago, 50 people showed up.

This year, more than 800 turned out, a fact that could be attributed to the rising popularity of a vegan and vegetarian diet in the United States.

"There's been a steadily increasing number of vegetarians and we have seen a big jump in the proportion of that population who are vegans," said John Cunningham, the consumer research manager at the Vegetarian Resource Group (VRG).

The main reason people become vegetarian is "because they don't want to participate in the slaughter of animals," he added.

Greenhouse gases 'rise to record levels in 2009'

GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) – Greenhouse gas concentrations reached record levels in 2009, the UN's weather agency said yesterday, warning that global warming could set off even greater methane emissions from the Arctic.

"Greenhouse gas concentrations have reached record levels despite the economic slowdown. They would have been even higher without the international action taken to reduce them," said Michel Jarraud, secretary general of the World Meteorological Organization.

"In addition, potential methane release from northern permafrost, and wetlands, under future climate change is of great concern and is becoming a focus of intensive research and observations," he added.

Carbon dioxide concentrations reached 386.8 parts per million in 2009, up 38 percent from pre-industrial times.

Methane, the second most important greenhouse gas after carbon dioxide, meanwhile reached 1,803 parts per billion, up 158 percent from pre-industrial times.

According to the WMO, following a period of stabilization between 1999 and 2006, atmospheric methane began to increase again from 2007 to 2009.

"There are two possible reasons for that -- in 2007, there was a warmer Arctic which produced a lot of extra emissions, plus in 2007 and 2008, there was an increase in precipitations in the tropics," said Oksana Tarasova, a WMO scientist.

"We don't know the proportions which work more. It's difficult to distinguish between these two particular sources," she said, adding that it was unclear if the trend would continue in 2011.

For Len Barrie, who is co-director at WMO's research department, changes are needed urgently in order to reverse the situation.

"If we continue business as usual, we will not achieve the level of atmospheric concentration that would allow a two degree Celsius target," he told AFP, referring to a bid to limit global warming to two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial temperatures.

He added that to start decreasing the levels of greenhouse gases, it was necessary to "stop totally the emissions."

This means that the usage of fossil energy should be halted, he said.

Representatives from 194



Steam and other emissions are seen coming from funnels at a chemical manufacturing facility in Melbourne

countries meet in the Mexican resort city of Cancun from November 29 to December 10 for a new bid to strike a deal to curb greenhouse gases.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, China acknowledged it is the world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases stoking global warming, confirming what scientists have said for years but defending its right to keep growing emissions.

China's chief negotiator in international climate change talks, Xie Zhenhua, made the comment while spelling out his government's position

ahead of negotiations in Cancun, Mexico, over a new global pact to fight global warming.

Scientists and overseas bodies have said that since 2006-2007, China's greenhouse gas pollution has surpassed the United States', the world's top emitter for the 20th century.

But until now Beijing has hedged. Its officials have said it may possibly be the top emitter, that the issue needs more study or that average emissions per capita is a fairer measure to guide policy.



A labourer works near cooling towers of a power plant on the outskirts of Xiangfan, Hubei province

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Published Monday thru Saturday

Berdych over-powers Roddick at tennis Tour Finals

LONDON (AFP) – Wimbledon finalist Tomas Berdych remained in the hunt for a place in the semi-finals of the ATP World Tour Finals after a 7-5, 6-3 win over Andy Roddick on Wednesday.

Berdych admitted he had been paralysed by nerves on his Tour Finals debut on Monday when Novak Djokovic brushed aside the Czech sixth seed in straight sets.

But, after over-powering eighth seed Roddick, the 25-year-old will go into his final Group A match against Rafael Nadal on Friday knowing a win would likely secure him a spot in the last four of the prestigious end-of-year tournament at London's O2 Arena.

"It feels great," Berdych said. "None of these matches are easy, especially against Andy. I'm happy after the poor first match to start to play my tennis again and feel good on court."

"That's what I need. I'm still in with a chance to have it in my hands in the last match."

Roddick lost in a slightly grumpy manner as he complained about being distracted by the colourful advertising boards around the court.

"The neons in the back weren't quite to the settled



position. They were still advertising stuff," he said. "When you're trying to track a ball, it's kind of neon lights and stuff in your vision. Then Tomas noticed it and a couple of them just went out before we played a point."

Berdych is the only player among the eight here not to have won an ATP title this season, but the last time he played in London he defeated Roger Federer en route to the Wimbledon final.

The 25-year-old's fairytale run came to an end in the final against Nadal and his form has dipped dramatically since then, so this victory offers a last chance to end the year on a high.

Roddick had given a good

account of himself against Nadal on Monday, serving 18 aces and even holding a break in the final set, before eventually succumbing to the world number one's relentless aggression.

Victories in his last four meetings with Berdych, including a success in the final of the Miami Masters this year, would have given Roddick further cause for encouragement.

But, like Roddick, Berdych is no slouch when it comes to peppering opponents with big serves and there were only two break points in the first 10 games.

Both fell to Roddick as Berdych served to stay in the set. Unfortunately for the former US Open champion, Berdych held his nerve impressively to escape from that precarious position.

Katsidis inspired by late brother in Marquez fight

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (AFP) – Barely a month after the death of his older brother, Australian Michael Katsidis faces the biggest fight of his life on Saturday in a double world title showdown against Juan Manuel Marquez.

Katsidis decided to continue his Thailand-based training last month after the unexpected death of Stathi Katsidis, a 31-year-old Australian champion jockey from Brisbane.

"I will do this for Stathi, my family and myself," Kat-

sidis said. "Stathi is inside me. We will fight this fight together. I know this is what he wants."

Katsidis, 27-2 with 22 knockouts, will face World Boxing Association and World Boxing Organization lightweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez, 51-5 with one draw and 37 knockouts, in a possible launching pad fight for the Mexican.

Marquez and his promoters have talked up the possibility of a third fight against Filipino superstar Manny

Pacquiao, who won a 2008 split decision over Marquez after the two had fought to a draw in 2004.

The Asian star has talked down the idea of a third fight with a man who has not beaten him, but with unbeaten US star Floyd Mayweather facing legal charges and nixing an earlier fight bid, Marquez might be an attractive foe if he wins.

"This is going to be a very difficult fight," Marquez said. "I'm not taking anything for granted. I'm going to have to be at my best. We will give the fans a great show."

Brand gets one-game ban after flagrant foul

NEW YORK (AFP) – Philadelphia 76ers forward Elton Brand was suspended one game without pay by the NBA on Wednesday for deliberately shoving down Washington's JaVale McGee in a loss to the Wizards the night before.

Brand was banned for Philadelphia's game on Wednesday at Toronto for the fourth-quarter flagrant foul, which came with 3:32 re-

maining in regulation time of what proved to be a 116-114 overtime victory for hosts Washington.

Brand, who scored 19 points, shoved McGee intentionally after a dunk and was ejected from the game.

"I was just trying to stop the dunk," Brand said. "(McGee) is really athletic, quick to the rim and I hit him under the arm."



A double from Cristiano Ronaldo formed the centrepiece of a masterclass by Real Madrid here this week as they eased to a 4-0 away win over Dutch side Ajax in their Champions League Group G clash. Photo depicts Cristiano Ronaldo (C) of Real Madrid battling for the ball with Vurnon Anita and Jan Vertonghen of Ajax during the match.

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New York Mets Introduce New Manager Terry Collins



New York Mets new manager Terry Collins and wife Deborah pose for photographs in the dugout after a press conference at Citi Field introducing Terry as new the Manager of the Mets in New York.

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Els, Mickelson, Furyk among PGA top player finalists

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida (AFP) — South Africa's Ernie Els and US rivals Phil Mickelson, Jim Furyk, Matt Kuchar and Dustin Johnson were named finalists on Tuesday for the 2010 US PGA Tour Player of the Year award.

The Jack Nicklaus Trophy will go to a first-time winner when the recipient is announced on December 4. Finalists were nominated by the player advisory council with players who made at least 15 starts eligible to vote on a winner.

Former world number one Tiger Woods, a 14-time major champion, had dominated the balloting since 1997, the year he captured his first major title by winning the Masters in record-smashing fashion.

Woods, chasing the all-time record 18 won by Nicklaus, won the award 10 times, his streak being broken only by Mark O'Meara in 1998,

Fiji's Vijay Singh in 2004 and Ireland's Padraig Harrington in 2008.

But this year, Woods went winless in the wake of a sex scandal that led to a five-month hiatus from golf, a divorce from Elin Nordegren and the loss of his number one ranking to England's Lee Westwood after a five-year reign.

Els made his claim in March with victories at the World Golf Championships event at Doral and the Arnold Palmer Invitational. He finished atop the US PGA regular season playoff qualifying points standings.

Mickelson is the only major winner among the finalists, winning his fourth such crown at the Masters.

Furyk won the season-ending Tour Championship as well as PGA playoff crown. He also won the Heritage and Transitions titles and finished second on the money list.

Kuchar won the money title as well as the Vardon Trophy. He captured the Barclays title during the PGA playoffs and led the tour in top-10 finishes, including a share of 10th at the PGA Championship and sixth at the US Open.

Joke's on Johnson after fine for TD celebration



BUFFALO (AFP) - Buffalo Bills receiver Stevie Johnson wanted to poke a little fun at the Cincinnati Bengals with a cinematic catchphrase from Batman villain The Joker, but the last laugh was on him.

Johnson said Wednesday that he has been fined 5,000 dollars by the National Football League for his celebration of a 28-yard touchdown reception last Sunday, the first of his three touchdown catches in a 49-31 comeback victory.

After scoring, Johnson pulled his jersey to reveal a message written in big black letters on his undershirt - "Why So Serious?".

Johnson took the phrase from lines uttered by the late

and used prominently in posters to promote the 2008 movie.

The move was aimed at Cincinnati receivers Terrell Owens and Chad Ochocinco, who have called themselves "Batman and Robin" but thus far failed to produce superhero-style statistics.

"I was having fun with it," Johnson said. "They play the Batman and Robin thing, so I wanted to come in and be the Joker."

Neither club has had much to smile about this season. Both are 2-8 and at the bottom of their divisions.

Heath Ledger when he portrayed the Batman baddie in the film "The Dark Knight"

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NFL Week 12: Thanksgiving matchups lack spice

If the folks who make the NFL schedule are grimacing, it's understandable. Finding attractive opponents have caused those spicy Thanksgiving matchups to lose some of their spark.

| MATCHUP | STORYLINE | PICK |
|---------------------------|--|----------------|
| (Thur.) Patriots at Lions | New England's precision offense will dominate | Patriots 30-16 |
| (Thur.) Saints at Cowboys | A true test whether the Cowboys have waded out of mediocrity | Saints 27-20 |
| (Thur.) Bengals at Jets | QB Mark Sanchez is living up to the hype, and then some | Jets 27-16 |
| Jaguars at Giants | Giants are banged-up at WR and on the OL, but has enough to win | Giants 18-14 |
| Steelers at Bills | Bill's worst-ranked run D vs. Steeler's strong running game | Steelers 23-10 |
| Titans at Texans | A month ago, this was an intriguing matchup | Texans 24-14 |
| Packers at Falcons | Pack don't fear the road, not even if Falcons are perfect at home | Packers 27-24 |
| Panthers at Browns | The Panthers have the league's worst pass defense | Browns 14-6 |
| Vikings at Redskins | Will the Vikings get a boost from their coaching change? | Vikings 20-19 |
| Chiefs at Seahawks | Chiefs struggle on road; Qwest Field is as tough as any venue | Seahawks 17-13 |
| Dolphins at Raiders | Raiders should get a win against injury-ravaged Dolphins | Raiders 21-13 |
| Eagles at Bears | Another terrific matchup now that the Bears look for real | Eagles 17-14 |
| Rams at Broncos | Rams are shoddy on the road. A win, though, is not out of the question | Rams 21-20 |
| Bucs at Ravens | A win can establish Bucs as best team in NFC | Ravens 20-17 |
| Chargers at Colts | Colts nearly won at Patriots despite being so short-handed | Colts 30-24 |
| (Mon.) 49ers at Cardinals | This one really must embarrass whoever puts together the schedule | 49ers 16-13 |



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Strong Tiger comeback could boost industry in 2011



WASHINGTON (AFP) — PGA officials hope Tiger Woods will bounce back from a year of scandal and setbacks with a strong 2011 season and revive interest in himself and golf ahead of US tour television contract negotiations.

Woods endured a sex scandal and a winless 2010 campaign, falling from atop the world rankings as his marriage ended in an August divorce and his five-year golf reign ended when England's Lee Westwood took over three weeks ago.

US PGA television ratings are down ahead of planned 2011 talks on terms for the 2012-2016 seasons and having Woods in top form would help as networks and sponsors consider how much money to sink into the sport in the near future.

"The most dominating player in a sport in history, you want him playing because it makes a lot of things work a lot better," US PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said.

"And we want him playing. We want him playing well and given his intensity, we assume that will be the case."

Viewers beyond the typical golf crowd have tuned in to watch Woods win 71 titles, 11 shy of Sam Snead's all-time PGA record, and 14

major titles, four shy of matching golf's holy grail of records set by Jack Nicklaus. The quest by Woods to overtake those marks would likely ensure strong interest from people who do not usually watch golf, providing Woods is able to bounce back and show some signs that he can simply win any sort of tournament.

Often winning by record-setting scores or margins, Woods lured viewers from beyond golf's usual crowd the way Mike Tyson brought people to boxing with fast knockouts in his prime.

Woods helped boost US PGA TV contracts, sponsorship and prize money and his first events back after scandal drew global attention, although the buzz faded during 2010 as Woods went winless, unable to duplicate past amazing shotmaking.

The fall from grace by Woods and a major economic downturn combined to hit the US PGA Tour like a tee shot into a water hazard.

Some rising stars in golf's new world order will not join the US PGA in 2011 as world number one Lee Westwood of England, third-ranked PGA Championship winner Martin Kaymer of Germany and Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy will stay on the European Tour.

Sponsorships for some events became a struggle to secure. TV ratings fell and next year's schedule still has not been announced, two months after Finchem said it was coming soon.

According to The Golf Channel's website, ratings for its PGA Tour telecasts were down 26.7 percent from 2009 and 17.7 percent from 2008 with final-round ratings down even more.

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Guerrero proves major hit with MLB

NEW YORK (AFP) — Vladimir Guerrero, who helped the Texas Rangers reach the first World Series in their 50 seasons, was named Wednesday as winner of Major League Baseball's Outstanding Designated Hitter Award.

The nine-time major league all-star took 61 of 84 first-place votes to out-poll runner-up David Ortiz of Boston, another Dominican power hitter who won the award five years in a row from 2003 through 2007.

Guerrero batted .306 with

25 home runs, driving in 106 runs and scoring 73 times in 129 games played as a designated hitter

The award has been handed out since 1973 but Guerrero, 35, became the first Texas player to win the honor since Rafael Palmeiro in 1999.

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